

The Olinda Outpost

Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda
 2953 Olinda Side Road, Ruthven, Ontario, N0P 2G0
 Toni Janik & Bobbye Baylis, Editors



R.E. Class and Service held at 10:30
 (followed by refreshments)

Sunday Services October , 2018

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Oct. 7	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Cosmic Rock-Paper-Scissors</i> Whoever you are, wherever you are, privilege and vulnerability are involved. Taking stock of how these fit in our lives is the road toward grace and gratitude.	Baylis-Stone trio
Oct. 14	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Toolbox: A well-put-together kit can allow us to be better prepared to take on the tasks at hand – what are the tools that we have at our disposal?</i>	Lorie Lyons
Oct. 21	Karen Andersen Miller	<i>UN Day</i> The institution is under attack.	Bobbye & Bill Baylis
Oct. 28	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Still Alive: Every once in a while, a reminder of our mortality is also a good reminder that we're alive. And life has a way of affirming its vitality when hope is hard to find.</i>	Toni Janik
Nov. 4	John Upcott	<i>Recalling the Past at Olinda</i>	Toni Janik



Poor Boys' Lunch
Wednesday, November 7, 2018
11 am — 2 pm; Games at 10 am
Menu: Wieners and beans
with a vegetarian option,
buns, coleslaw and dessert
Suggested donation: \$15
Put on by the Hyltons and Upcotts
Please sign up to attend!

Clergy Connection

It has been very fulfilling for me to see so many of you on Sunday! As I am still adapting to the sound system and acoustics of our building, I appreciate you letting me know if you have problems hearing me, and I will continue to adjust my delivery to ensure that our message is accessible to all of you!

And I've been inspired in witnessing the community around the county. I saw strong community-building at The Bank Theatre, as Sarah and I attended a fundraising Coffee House with many engaging musicians. I also enjoyed a visit with the Royal Astronomical Society, where people find awe and inspiration by looking up at the skies. These seem to me like great examples of how our wider community finds great excuses for getting together!

I was also glad to be part of the Independence Day celebrations at the Mexican Consulate on September 15, and to hear lively Latin-American music at an event for migrant workers at the Roma Club on September 16.

You might remember that the *Peace Party* that was scheduled earlier in September had to be cancelled, due to rain. This was only one of the initiatives from Leamington Ministerial, a team from various faith traditions, who seek to work together in the service of humanity. I have met with these colleagues and found them to be great allies in our mission, as many of our goals share common ground.

As we move into October, we may encounter many interesting and complicated topics. Some of these may be delicate and may bring up strong feelings for some of us – this often means that these are important conversations to have. The nature and practice of democracy, for instance, will be a very current part of our lives over the next couple of months.

We'll also start to take a look at different perspectives around the nature of sacred scriptures. After the service on October 14, the Social Responsibility Committee will be hosting a viewing of the documentary suggested by Ben Bernath, *Caesar's Messiah*, and I will be moderating some discussion around it. Since the history and study of scriptures is very wide and extensive, I see this as the beginning of a longer series on questions around the scriptures in our lives – and what they might mean for each of us.

Also in the middle of October, some new changes in Canadian law will invite discussion around public health, addiction, and the shifting nature of our economic and agricultural landscape. As these affect our community in the county, it will be worth exploring some of the meaning around these matters.

We will have more opportunities to explore these and other conversations into the coming months, though I'll be away the first week of November. That will be time for me to participate in the *Parliament of World's Religions* in Toronto, after which I will also attend a seminar on *Church and Charity Law* in Mississauga. I hope to bring the connections and learning from this time away to the service of our community. As our shared ministry develops, I look forward to serving with you!

Warm regards,

--Rod

From The Board

The board recognized The Reverend Rod Solano-Quesnel and welcomed him to the first board meeting as the settled minister of the U.U. Church of Olinda. It is great to have Rev. Rod at the meetings and we know that his will be a long and successful ministry.

Incorporation is still on track and Peter LeClair has agreed, because of his expertise, to work with the committee and the legal team to make sure we do it right. Thank you so much, Peter.

The Peace Party which was so well attended and so much fun last year was a casualty of the weather this year. It was a wet, rainy, and cold day so all the festivities had to be canceled. It takes so many people to organize this and they work so hard to make this event a success but no one can control the weather so they will try again next year.

Thanks to property the main floor electrical circuits have been upgraded to support all the crock pots needed to put on our fund raising lunches that we started last year. These lunches were very important and raised some significant funds only because of You, the congregation, so we hope you will support them again this year. The first one will be a Poor Boys' Lunch of wieners and beans with a vegetarian option, buns, coleslaw and dessert on Wed. Nov. 7th, put on by the Hyltons and Upcotts. Please plan to attend!

Helen has again been in contact with Children's Aid and we, as a church, have agreed again to support a family for Christmas. We have always raised a great deal of money for a family or two so if you can support this program again please mark your donation for the Christmas family and give it to Helen or put it in the collection plate. We have the power to make a family's Christmas better.

John Haynes has generously asked the board if he could donate a group of three paintings to hang in the infants' room. John is a very well respected artist and the board gratefully accepted. We thank John for his generous gift. We will be proud to have his paintings hang in our church.

I hope all have a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving and I will see you in church.

John Upcott
President

Important Dates

Oct. 14 9:30 am

Choir Rehearsal

Oct. 14 Noon

Film: *Caesar's Messiah*

Bring sandwiches!

Oct. 17 10 am

Membership Comm. Meeting

Oct. 18 7 pm

Board of Trustees Meeting

Oct. 21

All Budget Requests due

Oct. 21 9:30 am

Sunday Services Meeting

Oct. 21 Noon

Social Resp. Comm. Meeting

Oct. 23

November Newsletter Reports due

Oct. 27 5:30 pm

Dinner for 8

Oct. 28 9:30 am

Choir Rehearsal

Nov. 4 Noon

Finance Committee Meeting

Nov. 7 11 am

Poor Boys' Lunch

10 am: Cards & Games

Membership Committee Report

This is a short note to update you on the publishing of the revised edition of our Church Directory. It should be ready to distribute early October once we have Rev. Rod's complete contact information. He is considering getting a landline installed so it will be important to include his new phone number in this edition.

The Dinners for 8 will be hosted by Toni and Dan Janik (from Windsor) on Saturday, October 27th starting at 5:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet has been posted on the coffee room bulletin board so please add your name if you would like to attend. For those of you who may not know about Dinners for 8, usually it is planned for 6-8 guests and each guest brings food like a potluck dinner. It is a wonderful way to get to know members of the congregation and seems to be a popular venue at this church. If anyone else is interested in hosting a Dinners for 8 later in the year, please let me know. Thank you to Toni and Dan for starting out our new season with this joyful gathering.

The Membership/Publicity Committee consists of Bobbye Baylis, Helen Moore, Toni Janik and myself with Rev. Rod attending as well. We are very pleased to see new people joining us for Sunday services and hope you feel welcome. If anyone has questions about our church or faith, please talk with Rev. Rod or a committee member. Many others in our congregation would be happy to assist you as well.

Lorie Lyons
Membership Trustee

Christmas Family

The Board of Trustees has approved our proceeding with sponsoring one or more Children's Aid families for Christmas gifts. We have requested county families who have the greatest need. When we are assigned one or more families, I'll let you know.

If you wish to make a contribution to purchase Christmas gifts for a needy family, please do so, marking your envelope for Christmas Family or CAS. If you wish to contribute by cheque, please make the cheque payable to Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda.

You will be credited for the donation in your annual income tax receipt from the church.

Thank you.
Helen Moore
Treasurer

Why I am a Committed U U

When asked to write a short note on why I am a committed UU, hundreds of reasons raced through my mind. I always have been a committed non joiner, and yet here I find myself, after 15 years still within the UU fold.

What did I seek when I arrived? I wanted to be part of a group of people who could accept my personal beliefs without telling me what I had to believe to be part of the group. I, in turn, would grant them the same courtesy. This I found and committed myself to the congregation at Olinda and the wider Unitarian Universalist Church.

Our Principles are statements I can readily believe and promote especially the worth and dignity of every human person. As such, we are a group of people embracing all, regardless of race, nationality, sexual identity, belief system, and sexual preference. This inclusiveness resonates with me.



While teaching religious education to some of our children I was struck by a conversation that centered around monotheism and polytheism. One child said he liked to believe in multiple gods, while another said, he preferred not to believe in any god until someone could prove to him any god existed. I thought, "We are doing something right!"

The sign in front of the church states, "This church was founded on the faith that love is a more positive force for good than fear,". Our mission statement is "It exists as a haven of religious freedom offering fellowship, knowledge, and inspiration to all who would seek truth, live responsibly and courageously and be of service to humanity". I can go along with that!

Submitted by Joyse Gilbert

Financial Trustee Report

In September we started the process of creating an Operating Budget for 2019. The following schedule is presented to inform everyone who would like to be part of this process. There are always openings on the Finance Committee for anyone who is interested in the financial health of our church.

Date	Time	Description
Sept. 30	After church	Open meeting to discuss budget items. Anyone desiring to be on the Finance Committee should definitely attend this meeting and volunteer to become a member. Lloyd Fund representatives are requested to attend to answer questions.
Oct. 21		By this date, all Committee budget requests must be submitted to the finance trustee or the treasurer so that they can prepare the budget.
Nov. 4	After Church	Meeting of the Finance Committee to approve the Budget.
Nov. 8	7 PM	Board Meeting at which Budget will be presented for approval.
Nov. 18	Before Church	Copies of the budget will be available to the congregation for review.
Dec. 2	After Church	Congregational Budget meeting.

We are starting up another church year of mid-week luncheons and games. Our first is hosted by Linda & John Upcott with Carol & Laurie Hylton. It will be a Poor Boys' Luncheon on Wednesday, November 7th, with games starting at 10 am followed by lunch served from 11 am to 1pm, for a suggested donation of \$15. Come one, come all and enjoy!

Blessings
Elaine Stevenson

Caring Committee Report

At this time of the year, we are reminded of how much we have to be thankful for. My wish for everyone this Thanksgiving is that you find yourself surrounded by those you love.

Had a wonderful visit, along with Rev. Rod, with Marion Thompson, Walter Sinclair and James Reid one afternoon and found everyone doing well. A special visit with our birthday girl Tina Bell. She sends a big thank you for her lovely card which was signed by the congregation. A cheery hello goes out to Don and Sylvia Dotzert and Emil and Eunice Buhne. Hope to see you in church.

Submitted by Linda Upcott

Your Church Property

The exterior walls of the church have been washed since it was over two years since they were last done. The ground was sunken along the north wall so stone has been placed in that area. That was some of your dollars at work. There has been some work done in the front gardens, thank you Helen for your work.

Keeping up the church is a never ending job and takes all of us in some way.

Laurie Hylton

Caring Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Leona Crowder

Linda Upcott

Social Responsibility Committee Report

The turn-out to the September meeting of the Committee shows great promise for an exciting year. Welcome to new Committee members Rev. Rod, Sarah Wert, and Susan Vary!

Several topics were discussed, the first being an Honour Statement for our church. A motion stating that our church should have an honour statement was passed, and various members of the committee are now researching the details. Hopefully we will have something to present to the Board after our October meeting.

The Committee supports the Sunday Services Committee's initiative to present a film suggested by Ben Bernath as a follow-up to his talk at the August service. The documentary *Caesar's Messiah* will be presented after the service on Sunday, Oct. 14. The Congregation will be encouraged to bring a sandwich should they plan to stay for the film, which will be about an hour and a half long, followed by discussion. Some Committee members will bring extra sandwiches for those who decide to stay at the last minute. If there is interest in the subject of historical church scholarship, this may be the start of a series organized by Rev. Rod.

With a new minister it is a good time to consider refreshing our Social Media. The individuals who assemble our Newsletter, Facebook page, and Website, welcome input, and it may be useful to have a forum in which wider discussion could be held. The Committee passed a motion offering to the Board that they would be willing to take on an oversight role should that be desired.

Submitted by Bobbye Baylis
Secretary, SRC

